

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 19, 2013

The Jasper County Board of Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Kendell Culp, James A. Walstra and Richard E. Maxwell. Also present was Gail Ackerman, Highway Clerk/Assistant Supervisor, and Donna J. Horner, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Culp called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLAIMS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIM & ALLOWANCE DOCKET(S): Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket(s) for the pay period(s) ending January 15, 2013 and January 31, 2013. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Continued Meeting held on January 22, 2013. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

CORONER / MORGUE UPDATE: Andy Boersma, Coroner, and Greg Smith, MC2, were present to discuss the possible addition to the Community Corrections facility. Mr. Smith distributed copies of the proposal that his company has developed for the morgue as well as an outline of the process. Mr. Smith stated that what they are basically proposing is that they would do the design development, obtain the state permits for this building and monitor the construction process in three site meetings. The estimated cost of the project would be between \$350,000.00 and \$400,000.00. This amount is for the building only. Bill Wakeland, Director/Community Corrections, stated that the Advisory Board is in favor of the project as long as they are able to get 4-6 offices out of the deal.

REZONE / UNION TOWNSHIP: A request was made to change the zoning classification of real estate in Union Township from the A1 Conservation Agriculture District to the A2 General Agricultural District. Mary Scheurich, Director/Planning & Development, requested that the rezone be tabled until next month as she has not yet received the legal description for the 10 acre parcel.

SEMINARS / PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: Mary Scheurich requested permission to attend the Indiana Residential Code Seminar on March 6 and March 13 in Indianapolis. The cost of the seminar is \$150.00. Mrs. Scheurich plans on riding to the seminar with the City of Rensselaer; therefore, there should not be any mileage expenses. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request to attend the seminar. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Scheurich will also be attending a seminar on footers and foundations on March 12. The seminar is free of charge and she will be riding with the City of Rensselaer; therefore, there will be no expenses.

SURVEYOR / TRAINING REQUIREMENTS: According to recent legislation, an individual elected to the office of county surveyor after June 30, 2009, shall, within two (2) years after beginning the county surveyor's term, complete at least twenty-four (24) hours of training courses related to land surveying that are developed by the Association of Indiana Counties and approved by the State Board of Accounts. A list of the available training courses was distributed. Vince Urbano, County Surveyor, would like permission to attend the Purdue Road School. The dates of the remaining training courses are unknown at this time. Mr. Walstra made a motion to allow the Surveyor to attend the conferences as necessary for his certification for up to 24 credit hours. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

IPADS / SURVEYOR'S OFFICE: Vince Urbano requested that a couple of their laptops be replaced with iPads. Upon Mr. Culp's suggestion, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to take the request to the IT Committee. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 19, 2013

CR 20E: Steve Hurley requested permission to put in tile that needs to cross CR 20E. This tile would run parallel to the county tile. There is a culvert at the site. The Highway Department will need to be notified a day or two ahead. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request to cut CR 20E. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

SOUTH SHORE CONVENTION & VISITORS AUTHORITY: Kevin Kelly, Economic Development Director, stated that the South Shore team visited a couple of weeks ago and took a tour of Jasper County. The South Shore Team was introduced as they gave a brief presentation. Speros Batistatos, President/CEO, explained that while they are legislatively the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau, their business practices today take them into 2 states and 5 counties. Mr. Batistatos reviewed and discussed a "5 Point Preliminary Game Plan" to increase visitor dollars. Those 5 points include (1) Create Identity; (2) Focus on existing events (LCJ, Sandhill Crane, Chautauqua); (3) Leverage Agri-tourism (Fair Oaks, Legacy Farms); (4) Leverage Outdoor assets (State Park, marsh history, birding); and (5) St. Joseph College (sports, special events, packages). In response to questions from Mr. Culp, Mr. Kelly replied that the Commissioners have the responsibility to appoint the Tourism Commission. The authority over spending the tourism dollars will rest with the Tourism Commission.

JAIL REPORT / YEAR-END: Sheriff Risner distributed the year-end jail report to the Commissioners for their review. Almost 92,000 meals were served with the average meal cost being \$1.28. The State allows \$1.83 per meal; therefore, we average \$.55 return to the county. The total amount saved on meals was \$49,600.00. The average daily population was 89 inmates with the high on the year being 117.

SEIZED ANIMALS / BILL: In regards to billing on the seized animals, Sheriff Risner distributed a letter that was sent to the Auditor in July of 2004 on the last seized horses that the county had. The letter is self-explanatory that the billing came to the Board of Commissioners as part of the county's responsibility for upkeep and maintenance on those animals. The case has been adjudicated. A bill was received in the amount of \$564.00. A portion of the bill will be paid for out of the donation fund (seized animals) with the remainder of the bill being paid for out of the Commissioners' budget.

CONTRIBUTIONS & COLLECTIONS / YEAR-END: Sheriff Risner reported that the contributions and collections that came back to the county through the Sheriff's department was \$73,161.00. These collections come from Sheriff's sale fees, tax warrant fees, and civil process service. Money is also collected when citizens obtain a personal protection permit or hunting permit. This amount came to \$21,625.00 last year and will be used for firearms training and purchase of firearms related issues. Money is also collected for accident reports. This amount came to \$2,886.00 and will be used for accident prevention and investigation funding.

AUCTION / SHERIFF'S VEHICLES: Sheriff Risner reported that he has several squads and vehicles that will be available for auction. Several of the squads are still in running condition. Currently, there are at least seven (7) vehicles that will be available.

COUNTY-SHARED VEHICLE: A 2009 Crown Vic will be available in approximately 2 weeks. This vehicle will be released to the Courthouse to be used by county employees to travel to training sessions, conferences, etc. The license plate will need to be transferred and the vehicle will need to be painted. The vehicle currently has 111,000 miles.

LIGHTING / PARKING LOT: Sheriff Risner stated that some of the outdoor parking lot lighting at the facility was eliminated during the value-engineering process. This resulted in some dark spots with the current lighting. Alan Valade was hired to perform a survey which resulted in the replacement of four (4) sets of the pole lighting with LED lighting. We also went to double LED lighting on the poles. These changes were paid for out of the Cumulative Jail Fund. The cost for the double LED lighting is approximately \$2,900.00 per pole.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER / PERMISSION TO REFILL POSITION: Sheriff Risner stated that one of the full-time Correctional Officers has submitted a letter of resignation. The position has already been advertised due to the length of the hiring process. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the filling of the vacant Correctional Officer position. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 19, 2013

PART-TIME POSITION / PERMISSION TO REFILL: Sheriff Risner stated that the newly-created position of another full-time Communication Officer was filled by a part-time employee. This left the department with an opening for a part-time position. There are currently 11 full-time and 3 part-time Communication Officers. Once the opening is filled, there would be 4 part-time Communication Officers. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request to refill the fourth part-time position. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

COMMISSARY FUNDING: Sheriff Risner stated that the commissary funding is used to pay for a lot of the training expenses as well as some equipment. The commissary report has to be submitted semi-annually to the County Council. The commissary fund saved the taxpayers of Jasper County \$23,631.00.

DRUG INTERDICTION / NEW POSITION: Sheriff Risner stated that he would like to revisit the request for a second Drug Interdiction Officer. The Council did approve funding for the position. Mr. Culp suggested that Sheriff Risner bring the request back to the March meeting in order to allow time to review the tax revenues. The Council did fund the position; however, there is not enough income tax money at this point in time to support another position. Other funds will need to be used.

BIDS RECEIVED / REHABILITATION OF BRIDGE NO. 230: The following bids for the rehabilitation of Jasper County Bridge 230 were opened at 9:30 a.m.:

Anlaan Corp., Spring Lake, MI	\$ 247,738.00
Ellas Construction Company, Inc., Gary, IN	\$ 205,604.51
Gariup Construction Company, Inc., Gary, IN	\$ 279,700.00
JCI Bridge Group, LaPorte, IN	\$ 218,713.62
LaPorte Construction Company, Inc., LaPorte, IN	\$ 197,202.63
Yates Construction, Inc., Kentland, IN	\$ 235,150.50

The engineer's estimate for the project was \$191,574.00. After review by the County Attorney and Ken Minett, Engineer, the bid will be awarded later today.

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD / ATTORNEY: Paula Wilcox, Director / Animal Control, explained that the Animal Control Board does not have an attorney. If we, as a board, were to have any legal questions or need advice, who should we refer them to? After some discussion, the decision was made to use the county attorney. Any major issues will need to go through the Commissioners first; however, minor questions can be directly answered without Commissioners' approval.

COURTHOUSE ROOF / UPDATE: Chris Baker, Etica Group, reported that, due to weather limitations, the two flat roofs that were bid as part of the project are scheduled to be completed in the Spring. Payment is being held from Midland Engineering for that portion of the project. In regards to the recent ice issue, Mr. Baker stated that it is his understanding that it was more of the ice from the side of the building rather than from the actual roof.

In regards to the mechanic's lien filed by Stevens Ironworks, Inc., Mr. Baker stated that it was his understanding that the lien had been released. At this time, the Commissioners have not been officially notified that it has been released. Mr. Baker stated that we still have a cost issue that we are fighting regarding the new exterior ladder to the flagpole. A change order was submitted by Zolkowski in December for approximately \$16,000.00 for additional costs associated with the ladder. Mr. Baker stated that we replied in writing to Zolkowski stating that their claim was basically not warranted. Since that time, we have not stopped working on this issue. Zolkowski has reduced their cost from the original \$16,000.00 to \$5,000.00 which equates for the need for the crane that was used. The cost is still being debated.

PROMPT AMBULANCE SERVICE: Gary Miller, Owner / Prompt Ambulance Service, introduced the Operational Manager for the area, Nate Metz. Mr. Culp stated that this is the year that the ambulance services will be bid. Bids are normally opened at the July meeting.

INSURANCE / UPDATE: Stace Pickering, Consolidated Insurance, reported that two (2) vehicles at the Airport are being transferred from the County. Mr. Culp asked if the County would still need to provide liability coverage if the property is leased to the airport?

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 19, 2013

INSURANCE UPDATE CON'T: Mr. Pickering replied "yes". Attorney Eric Beaver explained that leasing the property does not necessarily terminate any sort of liability. Mr. Culp stated that he is assuming that they are going to lease the ground and facilities/improvements. If this is the case, do we need coverage on those buildings? Mr. Pickering replied that it would all depend on how the lease is set up.

At this time, there was a short break.

PINNACLE MAPPING / UPDATE: Attorney Eric Beaver provided an update on the lawsuit against Pinnacle Mapping. Attorney Beaver has been working with the opposing counsel to schedule a deposition.

COUNTY FARM LEASE(S): Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the three (3) Cash Farm Lease(s) between the Board of Commissioners and Fox Hill Farm, Inc. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PERMISSION / COURTHOUSE PARKING: Ron Martin, Veterans Service Officer, has requested permission to park on the East side of the Courthouse due to medical reasons. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT / CONCERNS: Mike Sinks, Chief Probation Officer, stated that there have been some issues with people parking and blocking the rear door to the office. Mr. Sinks is concerned that this could be an issue during an emergency situation. Gail Ackerman, Assistant Superintendant / Highway Department, will look into getting a concrete parking block for the area. Ms. Ackerman will also send Roger Warren, Sign Man / Highway Department, to speak with Mr. Sinks regarding a possible sign.

Mr. Sinks stated that one of his Probation Officers has stated that some of his probation users have received aggressive/threatening phone calls from a collection agency that has even gone so far as to threaten jail time. Mr. Sinks felt that the Commissioners should be aware of this. Attorney Eric Beaver stated that it could be a possible scam. It would be a good idea to have them document the phone calls.

AGREEMENT / PORTER COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER: Mike Sinks explained that the younger offenders are normally sent to this detention center. The term of the agreement shall commence on January 1, 2013 and terminate on December 31, 2013. Jasper County shall pay Porter County the sum of \$11,000.00 annually. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Porter County Juvenile Detention Center Agreement. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

CLERK / DISTRICT MEETING: Vickie Bozell, Jasper County Clerk, has requested approval for herself and one deputy to attend the Northern District Clerk's Association meeting in Auburn, Indiana on March 14. The costs incurred will be registration fees of \$80.00 and mileage. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE / PROSECUTOR: Kathryn O'Neill, Prosecuting Attorney, has informed the Commissioners per letter that the 2013 Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association's annual conference is scheduled for May 19 – 23. The conference will be held in Orlando, Florida. It is her intention to have the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Kristina Armstrong, and the Case Manager, Ashley Clark, attend this conference. The hotel and other expenses of this conference will be paid from the IV-D Incentive Fund with non-taxpayer dollars. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT / MEETINGS: Michele Schuetzenhofer and Christy Fisher, Health Department Sanitarians, requested permission to attend the following meetings for the Indiana Environmental Association that are scheduled for 2013: April 4 – Meeting in Howard County; June 6 – Meeting in Logansport; July 31 – Meeting in Jasper County; September 23-25 – Fall Conference in Fort Wayne; October 3 – Meeting in Newton County; and December 5 – Meeting in Montgomery County. There will be hotel and mileage expenses for the Fall Conference. All other meetings will be mileage only. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the meetings as submitted. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 19, 2013

EMPLOYEE BONDS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the employee bonds for Beth Warren, Recorder; Phyllis Lanoue, Deputy Recorder; as well as three (3) Deputy Recorders. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

100R REPORT / TOTAL COMPENSATION 2012: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the 100R Report as submitted by the Auditor. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN: Due to several new amendments, Key Benefit has rewritten the Jasper County Government Employee Benefit Plan. Dan Fagen and Jack Fagen, Financial Arts, Inc, have reviewed the document line by line. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the rewritten plan. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

LETTER OF SUPPORT / JASPER COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve a letter of support stating that the Jasper County Commissioners give permission to the Jasper County Fair Association to use the county owned premises located at 2671 W. Clark St., Rensselaer, for their bingo fundraiser. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BRIDGE OVER SR 49: Mr. Culp stated that his thought is that the Commissioners should take the position that they are supportive of refurbishing and/or replacing the bridge. There will be a meeting at the Wheatfield Library. Mr. Culp is unsure of the date at this time. Mr. Walstra added that there should not be a weight limit. Mr. Culp will write a letter of support on behalf of the Commissioners.

MOWING / COUNTY PROPERTY: Colleen Culp has expressed interest in continuing to mow the Extension/Surveyor property at a cost of \$40.00 per mow. Jim Woodke has also expressed interest in continuing to mow the jail property. Mr. Walstra made a motion to extend the current contracts with the mowing vendors at their current rates. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

INSPECTOR OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: A letter was recently received from the Indiana State Department of Health stating that under Indiana law (IC 24-6-3-3) the Board of Commissioners of every county with a population of thirty thousand or more is required to appoint a county inspector of weights and measures. Discussion took place. At this time, it is unknown as to what exactly would be required of this position. Attorney Eric Beaver will review further.

WATER & SEWER BOARD MEETING: A meeting of the Sewer & Water Board will be scheduled for April.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS / ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT: There is currently an opening on the Jasper County Community Corrections Advisory Board for a lay person due to the resignation of Emily Waddle. William Wakeland, Director, has requested that Rick Johnson be appointed to fill this position. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Rick Johnson. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS / LEADERSHIP TRAINING: William Wakeland, Director / Community Corrections, will be attending the Leadership Academy at the Indiana Department of Correction Training Facility in New Castle, Indiana on the following dates: April 16 & 17, May 14 & 15, June 11 & 12, July 16 & 17, August 20 & 21, and September 24 & 25. The Leadership Academy is designed to prepare professionals for their roles as leaders within agencies undergoing the implementation of evidence-based practices. The cost of the program is \$550.00. The cost of the hotel and some meals will be paid out of the Work Release Fund. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

CELL PHONES / COUNTY: Last month, the Commissioners approved for Jack Haberlin, Highway Engineer/Supervisor, to upgrade his cell phone and service at his own personal expense. Gail Ackerman, Highway Clerk/Assistant Supervisor, would like permission to do the same. Discussion took place regarding cell phones, iPads and data plans. As the requests rise, the policy needs to be reevaluated. Do we provide both an iPad and an iPhone? The issue will be discussed at the next IT meeting.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 19, 2013

BID ACCEPTED / REHABILITATION OF BRIDGE NO. 230: Mr. Walstra made a motion to award the bid for the rehabilitation of Bridge No. 230 in the amount of \$197,202.63 to LaPorte Construction Company, Inc. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY / PROPOSED BOUNDARIES: Mr. Culp stated that he has met with the Airport Authority and they are looking for boundaries. A map of the proposed boundaries was reviewed. A survey of the area will be done. The lease would then consist of the area within the boundaries. A long-term lease would meet the requirements for FAA grants.

INSPECTOR OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES CON'T: Attorney Eric Beaver stated that the inspector is someone that has to be approved by the State Division of Weights & Measures and will be required to pass an exam that they administer. The duties of the appointee are to annually inspect all of the businesses in the county for their weights and measures. The statute provides that the county is required to set the compensation as well as provide all of the tools and materials that are necessary for the inspector to complete the job. Mr. Culp asked if the county could establish a fee? Information regarding job descriptions and fees charged will be requested from similar counties.

RESTROOMS / ADA PLANS: Plans to make the restrooms at the Courthouse and North Annex building ADA compliant were reviewed and discussed. Prices will be put together for the March meeting.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY / APPOINTMENT: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Adam Alson to the Airport Authority Board. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

There being no further business, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Kendell Culp, President

James A. Walstra, Vice President

Richard E. Maxwell, Member

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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